684 Twopence October, 1960

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

LIBRARY
STARR KING SCHOOL
NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM BUILDING

JR CHURCHES VERSEAS

3. ADELAIDE UNITARIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By Colin Gibson

he story of Adelaide Unitarian ristian Church goes back to the ly days of settlement in South stralia. The original founders of Church came from families ongly attached to Unitarian urches in England. On September n, 1855, the first minister, the v. John Crawford Woods, reached elaide, after a stormy voyage of days; on October 7th, the first blic service was held in a hired m. A handsome church was lt and opened for worship on y 5th, 1857, less than 21 years er settlement began. It stands the heart of the city.

To-day many of the congregation d Sunday School are descendants the fifth generation of the early milies, and one member of the choir, now in his eighties, recently told some of the young members that he had sung in the choir with their great-great-grandmothers. The Church has given many leaders to the community in various walks of life. It can look back upon its past with pride, but it cannot rest satisfied with it. Here the problem begins.

The Church possesses all it possessed, but it has not gone forward with the tremendous expansion rate of South Australia. It is being left in the centre of the city, like an island in an ever-widening sea, while the population moves further and further out. Most of the congregation come in by car, and Sunday School is held at the same time as morning service to enable them to bring their families, but without a car it is difficult and sometimes cannot be managed. The distance problem, in the absence of suburban Churches, is acute. Morning and evening service provide two opportunities of attendance. Contact is kept with everyone by means of a calendar printed monthly.

New members have come from Scotland, England and Transylvania, and the congregation has been greatly encouraged by visitors from America. It is only occasionally, however, that an Australian family turns Unitarian. The current of religion is not running here in a liberal direction. The Church is barely holding its own, while other Churches are having a thriving time by the aid of the Wells Organisation and are enjoying expanding congregations and swelling finances.

The isolation of the congregation is hard to realise for anyone in

Great Britain. The nearest Unitarian minister and congregation is in Melbourne 470 miles away, and Sydney, the only other one, is 1,000 miles distant. It was a great occasion recently when the Sydney and Adelaide ministers went over to Melbourne for the Induction of the Rev. Tom Wardle and had the joy, which comes so rarely, of wider fellowship.

In the hills, some 20 miles from Adelaide, there is a Unitarian Church, founded in 1865 by the Monks family from Croft in Lancashire and called Shady Grove after their homestead. As a centenary effort, the congregation at Adelaide erected by their own labour a Holiday House next to the Shady Grove Church, which stands in four acres of ground. Two tennis courts were laid down, and it makes a fine centre for youth activity.

Adelaide's is not a success story, but it is not a story of failure. It is the story of a Church which has borne consistent and loyal witness to the Unitarian teaching of religion and kept a firm foothold in South Australia. During the 100 and more years of its existence it has been a home of hope for the souls of men and women. It has held up, for all to see, the light of a free and rational religious faith.

NEXT YEAR'S HOLIDAY ?

"Those who have never stayed in our Holiday Homes at Great Hucklow have missed perhaps the most restful and peace-giving holiday of their lives."

IRVIN HODGSON.

. . . . "my wife and I certainly received the impression that we should have to suffer material discomfort as to sleeping arrangements and that the country around was rather bleak. This we gather, is an impression that is about in many Unitarian circles, it *is simply not true.*"

NORMAN FIELDHOUSE.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE YOUNG POLITICI

Hello, everyone! This is Raymo
Sometimes you know, Dad's a
funny; funny peculiar, I mean.
seems surprised by the simpl
things. The other day I asked h
what seemed a perfectly sim
question and he was quite shak

"Dad," I said, "how do I join
Socialist Party?"

When he'd recovered a bit, I
said:

"What?!"

I said it again. By this time I
was more his usual self.

"And why do you want to j
the Socialist Party?"

"Well," I replied, "I think so
of us ought to."

"The Opposition would never
cover," he said.

I didn't understand this, but
went on:

"Do you think the country
benefit from such a move?"

"I think *this* part of it will,
any rate."

"Tell me," said Dad, gett
down to it, "how have you made
choice? What have you got agai
the Conservatives and Liberals?"

"Pardon?" I said. So *Dad* sa
all again.

"Nothing," I replied. "I d
even know who they are—or wh

"You don't know . . . ?" Dad
worked up and for a while
speechless. Then he said:

"What d'you mean? The C
servatives and Liberals are
other two major political parties
this country."

"Oh, politics," I said, not re
being interested.

"Yes, and the present Gove
ment happens to be a Conserva
one."

"Dad," I said, "why d'you hav
bring in politics?"

"Well," he answered, breath
heavily, "*you* really did *that*, di
you? *You* mentioned the Socia
Party."

Well, what's that got to do with tics?"

The Socialist Party is the other or political party and the official osition party," he roared.

Oh," I said, and thought for a le. "I thought it was an organi-on that taught you how to run als."

What?!!!"

I mean, ours at school are pretty n. I thought if one or two of us ned how, we might help to make n better. Dad, are you *sure* it's olitical part?"

ut all Dad did was to make a ngled sort of noise and hurry n the room.

bit peculiar really, don't you k?

EDITATION ON THE OK OF JOB

Bruce Findlow

his good days Job took his ion for granted. It fitted well his affluent life it was easy him to believe that God was and powerful and good. But troubles which came to him ly shook Job. He lost every-g, he met deep suffering, social, ly and mental. It made him so y and disappointed with God he became a rebel, a heretic, issenter but he never lost his n. He went almost mad in his t to keep it. His spiritual crisis the one which comes to many us; Job is worth studying be-e he won through. To-day so y do not.

his trouble his well-meaning nds tried to guide and comfort ; a difficult task at any time in this crisis quite useless. y had only their own untroubled odox thoughts to tell Job, and e were the very thoughts made ningless for him by suffering. friends were like so many rows on a wall—bystanders un-to understand his situation. s problem lay not between himself and men He thought it lay between himself and God. But in the end he found it lay within himself.

In reflection, after making all his protests to God, Job thought through his past and his present; he examined his life in the light of the highest moral standards he knew—and he acquitted himself of sin! Suffering had tested and shaken him as comfort had never done; but he won through to a new and surer faith in himself. He cleared himself of his own doubts and of the outward dogmas of his friends. Then the way was clear for a renewal of his trust in God. Rebellion brought him not victory but trust not reward but humility and understanding. Then, like many others have done, Job having found himself, found God.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The "Daily Telegraph" of August 1st gave notice of an exchange of leading articles by two prominent and completely opposed South African newspapers. It noted that the suggestion of exchanging editorials came from the Rev. Magnus Ratter, pastor of the Free Protestant Unitarian Church.

The Rev. Magnus Ratter returns to the ministry in England later this year when he becomes minister at Golders Green.

In August the Rev. Fred Hankinson, Chairman of the Hampstead Branch of the Britain-China Friendship Association, led a deputation to Mr. Henry Brooke, Hampstead M.P., to discuss representation of China at the U.N.O. Mr. Brooke is a grandson of Stopford Brooke, and nephew of the late L. P. Jacks.

The Rev. T. J. Jones began his new ministry at Cardiff and Wick in September.

Mr. Christoper Binns, of Plymouth, is to utilise his State Scholarship at London University.

It is a pleasure to print the three personal reports that follow. The life and joy of the conference and "school" are here re-created for those not able to attend.

GREAT HUCKLOW FAMILY HOLIDAY CONFERENCE 1960

By Norman Fieldhouse

After attending the second Conference at Great Hucklow one comes away inspired by the vision of the Unitarian way of life and with a real sense of enjoyment of the wonderful atmosphere of friendship and fellowship of a large family, comprising all ages from around seven months to towards the eighties.

It always seems a difficult matter to try and organise "the things of the Spirit" efficiently, without perhaps sacrificing spontaneity of individual action and sincerity, within a group practising a religious approach to the every day practical problem of living the good life.

Not so at this Family Holiday Conference, as the organising committee under the chairmanship of the Rev. Eric Shirvel Price, with Mrs. Amy Howarth, M.A., as hon. secretary realised that good organisation "flows with the minimum of notice" and to achieve this the officers and members of the Conference Committee and their helpers worked hard "behind the scenes," setting an example of the spirit of service without sounding trumpets drawing attention to the undertone of efficient organisation. Just imagine parents free to listen to lectures in a morning and take part in the discussions following, whilst the children enjoyed themselves el where under expert and lovi supervision. The youth group fr to "make as much noise as th wished" and yet managing to ha "fun and games," without mater disturbance to the younger or old members of the Family Co ference.

Of course the sound of childre voices and the gong ringing summon us to participate in go meals were often welcome peri of respite to the enthusiasm i talking and thinking of subje often of complexity and dep though always stimulating ne boring.

Great Hucklow holiday homes 1960 are probably a different pictu of material comfort to the earl days. If one sleeps only a lit owing to the human desire when holiday to "burn the candle both ends," yet when the mattress are good one obtains quality sleep if not quantity. Certai the young folk under the a leadership and editorship of M Alan J. Curren often worked i the early hours of the morning produce the daily newspaper which one found a copy for eve one on the breakfast table: a yet every morning were ready "the fray" again! In all this, t co-operation of the competa Warden, Mr. Henry Tittle, w much appreciated by the memb of the Family Conference, making us "feel at home." Aft noons were left free (apart fr the children's sports day) for in vidual action or inaction. Freed to explore the countryside arou or snooze. Morning prayers, gra before meals, daily evening servi in the Old Chapel all seemed natural to community life a necessary as did all the mater comforts.

Next year the third Family Ho day Conference is being arrang What about going?

'AMILY HOLIDAY CONFERENCE 1960

By R. O. Foulkes

Early in March my wife and I ebated at length as to the desira-ility or otherwise of booking for the amily Conference. Should we sacrifice" a whole week of our recious holiday in this way? riends and relations advised against —" just imagine a rainy week at Iucklow surrounded by Unitarians!" However we ignored our counsellors, mothered our doubts and paid our eposit. Now, looking back on the veek I think the organisers were ully justified in using as their Brochure heading "By Popular De-mand."

The main interest at the con-erence was centred on the four Cheme Addresses "Our Growing Faith," each followed by lively and productive group discussion. The Rev. H. Lismer Short dealt most lucidly with the "Creative Tensions in our Movement," showing in his argument how our differences can be the life blood of Unitarianism. On Tuesday Dr. Kitty Dalton's capable and breezy lecture "Medicine or the Ministry" stressed the joint task of the Minister and the G.P. in the community. "The Challenge of Sigmund Freud to Unitarians" seemed at first glance something of a proposition, but the Rev. C. H. Bartlett with clarity and understand-ing showed how the psychologist also is concerned with the freedom and dignity of the human per-sonality. The final address, given by last year's President of the G.A., the Rev. A. W. Vallance, emphasised the need for Unitarians to under-stand their place in society to-day.

Another vital aspect of the con-ference was the study groups held each evening. These were most stimulating and presented everyone with an opportunity to clarify their thoughts and air their views.

And what of the holiday? You may feel from the above that we were overworked, but there were many opportunities for relaxation: the hilarious socials, the choir, the children's sports and party, the afternoons "en famille," and the daily "Hucklow Herald" which pre-vented anyone from taking him or herself too seriously. For the children this was a wonderful holi-day, and for the parents too the baby sitting scheme offered a greater freedom from their normal respon-sibilities.

It is impossible in the space avail-able to detail every aspect of the holiday and its personalities. We all, from the President of the G.A. to the youngest children, and even Tippy the dog (who attended all the lectures and many of the "bull ses-sions"!) had a part in fulfilling the aims of the holiday.

Perhaps the most lasting impres-sion for me will be the services held in the Old Chapel; some traditional, some experimental, but each in their own way expressing the unity and purpose of the conference.

THE OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL 1960

By Pauline Jones and Joan H. Hardman

The 1960 Summer School was held in Manchester College, Oxford, and 37 students attended, including two from Scotland and one from Germany.

We were very fortunate to have the "three aunties," Mrs. Gertie Burnett, Miss Alice Wragg and Mrs. Bertha Stansfield at the 1960 School. Auntie Gertie has recently completed 50 years' service in the Sunday School, and a book token was given to her to commemorate this event. Gifts were also given to Auntie Alice and Auntie Bertha, for making tea at various times during the day.

Our host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rogers, this year's Presi-

dent of the Sunday School Association, did a great deal towards making our stay at Oxford a pleasant one. Many evenings they entertained us in their apartments until the early hours.

During this time we were entertained by Mr. Dudley Richards on his guitar. To him must go much of the credit for the success of the Summer School; not only for his guitar playing, but for all the organisation he has done.

Throughout the week we had many interesting lectures from our resident staff, Miss E. Eden, Miss F. Railton and the Rev. E. B. Short. Mrs. Phyllis Hostler joined us with her family for a short time.

Miss Eden and Miss Railton, from Newcastle-on-Tyne, gave a series of lectures on teaching methods. Their talks were most helpful, and we were given many ideas to think about and apply to our Sunday School teaching.

Mr. Short gave us a course of lectures on self-teaching. The idea of this system is that the children teach themselves, with the guidance and help of their teachers. During the week Mr. Short set a self-teaching assignment on Manchester College, for the students to complete. We all found this practical demonstration of the self-teaching method very helpful, and our knowledge of Manchester College was considerably increased.

Mrs. Hostler, who is a Psychologist, has given talks on the B.B.C. and written a book. She lectured to us on Child Development. We were most fortunate to have a speaker of Mrs. Hostler's standing, and we found her talk very helpful.

In the latter part of the week we had another visitor—Dr. Kubler, secretary of the Unitarian and Universalist Churches of America Although he did not lecture, many of us had a chance to chat informally with him, and we found him to be a man of profound knowledge and experience.

Our time was not completely filled with lectures, and we had some free time to explore Oxford and the surrounding countryside.

On the last afternoon Mr. Garrard, the Principal of Manchester College, took a group of students round the colleges. We were particularly impressed by Christchurch Cathedral, the smallest in England, and by the gardens of Christchurch.

A group of students also spent a most enjoyable afternoon on the River Isis, going to Abingdon. Others tried their hand at punting. No-one fell in the river, but there were several narrow escapes!

An evening was spent visiting the theatre. Some of us went to the Oxford Playhouse to see "The Spider's Web," a comedy-thriller by Agatha Christie, others to the New Theatre to see "Make Me An Offer," a musical by Wolf Mankovitch.

Mr. Rogers showed slides of the Passion Play at Oberammergau, and his holiday on the Continent. The Rev. John Sturges showed us some colour slides of the John Pounds' Memorial Church, Portsmouth. This is a very new church, and we were very interested in its modern design. All visitors to Portsmouth will find it very worthwhile to visit this lovely church and its very proud minister.

The Oxford Summer School is always involved in a wedding. This year Ervine and Rose, from Hyde, are to be married, and we would all like to express our best wishes for their future.

The 1960 Summer School was a great success, and we are all going back to our churches refreshed and ready to resume our work in the Sunday School. The next Summer School is in two years' time, and all Sunday School teachers will find it worthwhile to attend.

"okyo want to know if they can orrow our Flaming Chalice for 64."

THE LINDSEY PRESS

Essays in Unitarian Theology

a symposium
Edited by
KENNETH TWINN, M.A.
8s. 6d., by post 9s. 2d.
. . . a fine production and makes a unique Unitarian contribution to the problems discussed. It deserves the widest circulation and a warm welcome. . . .

Towards a New Theology

by **S. P. WHITEHOUSE, M.A., B.Litt.**

Essex Hall Lecture, 1960

2s., by post 2s. 4d.
The Lindsey Press,
Essex Hall,
1/6, Essex Street, Strand,
London W.C.2.

NEWS AND VIEWS

HOME CHURCHES

It is not often that Unitarian ministers have Prime Ministers' sons in their audiences—but that is precisely what happened when OLDHAM Unitarian Minister, the Rev. T. E Nuttall, addressed the 21st anniversary meeting of HALIFAX Old Age Pensioners' Association one night in August, with Mr. Maurice Macmillan, M.P. for Halifax, and son of Britain's Prime Minister, as a guest at that well-attended and remarkable gathering.

Mr. Nuttall, President of the National Old Age Pensioners' Associations, not only strongly urged an early and "substantial" increase in old age pensions, but stressed to Mr. Maurice Macmillan the necessity of "facing up" to the issue personally. "It is surprising," he said, "What one voice raised in a desert can accomplish."

BURY and District Chamber of Trade are to give a lectern to BANK STREET, Chapel, Bury, in memory of Mr. J. A. Crawshaw, a former secretary of the Chamber for many years, and are now considering the most suitable type to offer.

Bank Street Chapel is to receive £2,000 under the will of Mrs. Elsie Crawshaw, a former Mayoress of Bury (widow of Mr. J. A. Crawshaw) and long an active supporter at Bank Street.

STAND U.Y.P.L. is holding a Baruba Night on the 28th September. "What is Baruba?" We hope someone will tell us! As well as Baruba there will be whist, jazz concert, spider's web and coffee bar. All profits are towards the target of £70 which the U.Y.P.L. has set itself to raise for Chapel and School funds as an alternative to running a stall at the November Fair.

Many thousands of visitors to the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales saw the Unitarian tent.

Much Unitarian literature was sold. The president of the G.A. visited the tent.

"Sunday School often bored me. Of it I remember mostly a terrifying superintendent (a good man, no doubt), chasing the girls home, fights outside the school and a study of Oliver Cromwell which I rather enjoyed; in fact I won a certificate for my 'paper' on our studies. But the Rev. J. R. Sturges has a fresh approach to Sunday School work and has divised ways of keeping up interest in the thriving little school at the John Pounds Memorial Church. On Sunday morning he and his assistants took the pupils for a walk round old Portsmouth pointing out all the memorials and different kinds of flowers. Th s was surely the spirit of the Church's "Patron Saint" John Pound, the cobbler schoolmaster who used to take his young pupils out on to Portsdown Hill, where they could enjoy the fresh air and study nature at first hand." Extract from the *Hampshire Telegraph*, the column called "Pompey Chimes"

Northern S.S. Federation
UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES
GREAT HUCKLOW, BUXTON
DERBYSHIRE

No increase in charges. All three Homes will be ready to welcome you. Early booking desirable.

THE MANCHESTER CREMATORIUM Ltd.

BARLOW MOOR ROAD,
CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY
(Chorlton 3499)

The Books of Remembrance are on view and the Garden of Rest is open daily for visitors to bring flowers and sit awhile in the peace and tranquillity of this hallowed place.

For advice on cremation and the special remembrance services please write to the

MANCHESTER,
CREMATORIUM LTD.,
2, COOPER STREET,
MANCHESTER, 2.
(Central 4596).

THE INQUIRER
The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
Every Saturday, Price 4d.
Obtainable from Newsagents, Bookstalls, or your Church.
By subscription, £1 6s. per annum from "The Inquirer" Office, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

THE UNITARIAN, published by Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Annual subscription 4/-. Monthly orders, 50 copies 7/6, 100 copies 10/6 plus postage *Business Manager:* G. HARRISON, 2, Walwyn Close, Stretford, M/Cr. *Editor*: Rev. PETER B. GODFREY, Dunham Road, Parsonage, Altrincham, Cheshire.

Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers, Bond Gate, Nuneaton.